

Commissioner Torlakson moved adoption of Resolution A, amended to read (Note: Proposed changes are identified):

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the basic goals of the State for the Delta include protecting, maintaining, and where possible enhancing and restoring the overall quality of the Delta environment; and

WHEREAS, the Delta's wildlife and wildlife habitats, including waterways, vegetated unvee'd channel islands, wetlands, and riparian forests and vegetation corridors are highly valuable providing critical wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds using the Pacific Flyway as well as certain plant species, various rare and endangered wildlife species of birds, mammals, and fish, and numerous amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates, that these wildlife species and their habitat are valuable, unique, and irreplaceable resources of critical statewide significance and that it is the policy of the State to preserve and protect these resources and their diversity for the enjoyment of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the resource values of the Delta have deteriorated and that further deterioration threatens the maintenance and sustainability of the Delta's ecology, fish and wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Protection Commission has prepared and adopted a Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta which recommends that programs to enhance the natural values of the State's aquatic habitats and water quality will benefit the Delta and should be supported, and recommends that water quality at Delta drinking water intakes should be maintained or enhanced; and

WHEREAS, historically, Central Valley agricultural wastewaters were released into the Kesterson Reservoir resulting in loss of wildlife and ultimately resulting in the closing of both the San Luis Drain and the Kesterson Reservoir in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been working with landowners to minimize the volume of agricultural drainage water and develop other methods to address this matter "in-valley"; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 1994 Judge Oliver Wagner of the U.S. District Court found that the Bureau of Reclamation has an obligation to provide drainage to the San Luis Unit and directed the Bureau to apply for a discharge permit for the San Luis Drain; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation will develop a range of options to address disposal of agricultural drainage generated by the San Luis Unit; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board will hold hearings on options developed by the Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, other public agencies may hold hearings, workshops, and other public negotiations and meetings regarding long-term resolution of agricultural drainage generated by the San Luis Unit;

WHEREAS, the San Luis Drain has a planned discharge point into the waters of the Delta;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Delta Protection Commission opposes release of wastewaters from the San Luis Drain into the waters of the Delta, recommends that Delta disposal no longer be considered a viable solution to San Joaquin Valley drainage problems, ~~and favors a drainage program which does not export agricultural waste out of the San Joaquin Valley;~~

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Delta Protection Commission will participate in and take positions on other various proposed options to address disposal of agricultural drainage from the San Luis Unit before the State Water Resources Control Board or any other body holding similar deliberations, with the intent of ensuring that any preferred option will enhance the natural values of the State's aquatic habitats and maintain or enhance water quality of the Delta, especially at drinking water intakes.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Delta Protection Commission pledges to work with the south Delta interests suffering under current drainage conditions to define and implement alternative drainage solutions.

He urged the Commission be clear and strong on this matter, and start from a position of strength, as the Commission did on the wastewater and biosolids issue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomson.